



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Inbound passenger to Detroit Airport found guilty of smuggling counterfeit DVD movies

More than 3,000 counterfeit DVDs were seized at the airport and his Oklahoma residence

DETROIT — An Oklahoma man was convicted here today in U.S. District Court for smuggling counterfeit DVDs into the U.S. This conviction followed an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Thian Hor Teh, 52, a U.S. citizen born in Malaysia, was detained at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport after he arrived from Japan via Manila, Philippines, in September 2004. A secondary examination conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors and ICE agents revealed two boxes containing 1,040 counterfeit digital video discs (DVDs) and labels. The DVDs contained movies that had not yet been released in the U.S. at the time of Teh's initial apprehension, such as *Shrek II* and *Spiderman II*.

The follow-on investigation by ICE agents led to Teh's arrest at his residence in the 5700 block of Parkhurst St. in Edmonds, Okla., in March 2005. Three parcels addressed to his residence were also seized which contained an additional 2,400 counterfeit DVDs.

Following a bench trial, Teh was convicted today of smuggling goods into the United States by U.S. District Court Judge Marianne Battani.

ICE agents analyzed the DVDs with the assistance of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). They jointly determined that the seized DVDs were excellent quality that could pass as genuine at many video retail stores. The MPAA has closely tracked the negative economic effects caused by counterfeiting on intellectual property worldwide. The MPAA estimates that the U.S. motion picture industry loses more than \$3.5 billion annually in potential revenue worldwide to piracy.

“Investigating those who smuggle pirated or counterfeit merchandise is an important role for our ICE office,” said Detroit Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz. “Counterfeiters cost legitimate businesses billions in lost revenue. The illicit proceeds from this counterfeiting are routinely used to support other criminal activities in the U.S. and around the world.” Moskowitz heads the ICE Office of Investigations for the states of Michigan and Ohio.

A sentencing date for Teh has not been scheduled.

Jeanine Jones, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan, prosecuted this case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.